

## WELCOME TO GOD'S BEAUTIFUL ALTERNATIVE

If you've had enough of the heartache, hardship, and hate of a world at war with God and you're ready to absolutely THRIVE in the life-giving, eternity-changing calling your Designer has designed you to fulfill, then you are right where God wants you to be! We are a community of imperfect people sincerely pursuing God's absolute best for ourselves and everyone around us. That means if there is anything we can do to help you take your next step in following Christ and finding His calling on your one and only life, we are right next to you at whatever cost. If you've got questions, or want to speak to a pastor, or would like to ask for prayer, grab that pen you got with this handout and fill out one of those CONNECT CARDS that was along for the ride. Other than that, we sincerely hope you have an incredible morning marked by a life-changing encounter with the risen and reigning King Jesus Christ.

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## EVERYONE WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING GREAT

The problem is finding the right opportunity. Fortunately, we've got a gaggle of life-changing, eternity-shaping options for you. When you serve with One Missoula Church, you help other people rise to become all that God made them to be. Here are a couple key areas we can multiply your time, energy, and willingness to help others:

- **KidsMin (birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade)** – bring love, joy, and biblical wisdom to young lives
- **Host & Greeter Team** – MASSIVELY important opportunity to help people know they are not only welcome, but WANTED here
- **Event Team** – help us put together anything from special events to simple hangouts so that we can make connections, deepen friendships, and make memories
- **Production Team** – leverage lighting, screen, computer, and sound systems to make the eternity-shaping message of Christ accessible to all
- **Worship Band** – sing or play guitar, bass, drums, and keys with others while building the church and pointing one another to Christ



## WEEK 2: REMEDIES FOR FAILURE

Septemebr 26, 2021

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### Old Testament prophecies tell us that a future messiah would rule over an increasingly VICTORIOUS Kingdom

Isaiah 9:6-7 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will do this.

### Jesus Christ kicks this off at the beginning of the New Testament

Luke 1:31-33 - And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

### But do these optimistic prophecies contradict other parts of the Bible?

Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

**The Bible doesn't contradict itself, but people's interpretations of the Bible contradict. If you see one passage in the Bible seemingly saying the opposite of another, your interpretation for one or both passages needs more investigation.**

### Important Bible Reading Questions:

- **Who is Jesus' audience?** 1st century Jews in adulterous Israel
- **What are the verb tenses in this passage?** PRESENT

Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) to destruction, and those who enter (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) by it are (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) to life, and those who find (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) it are (PRESENT TENSE in the 1st century) few."

### By the way, 26 Verses later in the Gospel of Matthew (the same book), we get a different picture in the future tense...

Matthew 8:11-12 - I tell you, many will come (FUTURE TENSE) from east and west and recline (FUTURE TENSE) at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown (FUTURE TENSE) into the outer darkness. In that place there will be (FUTURE TENSE) weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### What's the point? Many of the Jews alive during Jesus' first century ministry were entering destruction. But after His sacrifice, resurrection and enthronement, many would enter into eternal life.

Isaiah 53:11 - Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Hebrews 2:10 - For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

### Then why are we NOT seeing victory?

#### 1. "Newspaper Exegesis"

Matthew 14:28-31 - And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." <sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

#### The Remedy: focus your mind on truth and The GOOD News

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

## 2. Convenient “Christianity”

Mark 8:34–36 - And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (see also Luke 14:33)

Romans 12:1–2 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### **The Remedy: Sacrifice lesser idols to relentlessly pursue God’s best**

Matthew 13:44–46 - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. (See also Revelation 3:16–18)

## 3. Non-existent or misaligned prayer

Matthew 6:9–13 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread, <sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### **The Remedy: Pray in alignment with God’s mission**

Proverbs 28:9 -If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

## 4. Distracted Disciples

2 Timothy 2:4 - No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

### **The Remedy: Act in accordance with your prayer for God’s Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven**

Matthew 28:18–20 -And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Hebrews 12:1–2 -Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



## WEEK 2: REMEDIES FOR FAILURE

September 26, 2021